

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful review of this application. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to further clarify the scope of the invention. The specification was amended to clarify the scope of the invention. No new matter was added. Claims 2, 3 and 4 were cancelled without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to introduce similar subject matter of an equivalent scope in a future application. Examiner is thanked for the allowance of claim 7. Claims 1, and 5-7 remain pending in the application. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the following remarks with respect to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1 and 3-6.

SPECIFICATION OBJECTION

The examiner objected to the disclosure due to the sentence on page 25, line 24, which appears to be incorrect because applicants state that as diketene concentration decreases, hue increases.

Applicant has amended the specification to clarify the meaning of the sentence.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 112

Examiner rejected claims 5 and 6 under U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant has amended claim 5 to address the examiner's rejection. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the Examiner rescind the rejections of claims 5 and 6 under U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1,3, and 4 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mueller (US '299) or Mueller et al. (US '566 or '799), each in view of Nijima et al. (US '365).

Applicant has canceled claims 3 and 4. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 2. Based on the examiner's comments regarding claim 2, applicant respectfully requests Examiner rescind rejection of claim 1, as amended.

CONCLUSION

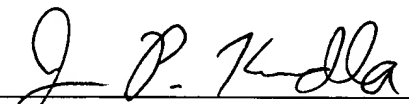
Applicant believes that all pending claims, as amended, are clearly allowable over the known prior art and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner.

If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange for such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A – VERSION WITH MARKINGS
TO SHOW CHANGES (SPECIFICATION)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES (SPECIFICATION)

Please amend the following paragraph to the specification at line 24, page 25:

As shown in this table, when acetic anhydride is used in ring-opening-polymerizing THF has a diketene concentration of 10 ppm or less, hue [increases]decreases significantly as compared with PTMG produced by using acetic anhydride having a diketene concentration higher than this concentration, further, when acetic anhydride containing little diketene having a diketene concentration of the detection limit or less is used, colorless and transparent PTMG of high quality is obtained.

APPENDIX B – VERSION WITH MARKINGS
TO SHOW CHANGES CLAIMS

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES (CLAIMS)

1.(Once amended) A method of producing polyoxytetramethylene glycol by ring-opening-polymerizing tetrahydrofuran in the presence of acetic anhydride and an acid catalyst, wherein said ring opening-polymerization is conducted using acetic anhydride having a diketene concentration of [10]2 ppm or less to produce polyoxytetramethylene glycol.

5.(Once amended) A method of purifying crude acetic anhydride wherein treatment of an ozone-containing gas is conducted after [distillation]distilling acetic anhydride containing diketenes.